

ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

They Relate to the Business Outlook and Are Seen by the Coal Barons.

At the Fifth Avenue hotel yesterday and at the Hamburg-American dock in Hoboken there was a large gathering of Leisenring, Kemmerer, Wentz, Richters and other "coal barons" of the Lehigh valley to say goodbye to Mr. E. B. Leisenring, president of the Lehigh Coal Navigation company, whose failing health has at length caused him to lay down the immediate supervision of his vast business interests and go to Europe for recuperation and recreation.

Talking with these coal barons, I was much interested to find that they are taking a very hopeful view of the business situation and that quite apart from the fact that the great anthracite coal industry in which they are more specially interested has had more than its share of prosperity during the long season when the bituminous coal regions all over the country were blighted by a strike of most comprehensive proportions.

SENATORS AND BASEBALL.

Mr. Hill of New York Tells About the First Time He Met Mr. Gorman.

Senator Hill tells an interesting story about the first time he ever saw Senator Gorman. It was long before they both became famous, and the incident was not recalled until Senator Hill became a fellow senator with the Maryland leader, and it was found that both were very fond of the national game of baseball.

"It was back in the sixties," said Senator Hill, "when everybody was interested in baseball. There was a convention in New York city. The cities along the Atlantic coast attended. I was a delegate from Elmira, representing the Adirondacks. I remember that the president of the convention knew nothing about parliamentary law, and it was not long before we were in a tangle and with no prospect of being extricated. Then they got a little fellow in the chair who knew all about the way to handle a convention, and he soon had things running smoothly. He held them down, I tell you. I forgot who he was and never recalled until after coming to Washington, when I was talking about the meeting with Senator Gorman, and he said he was there and presided. And he was. He represented the old Nationals of Washington."

While there are other senators who enjoy baseball, none are such devotees as Senators Hill and Gorman. The Maryland senator has not found time to indulge his inclination this season, as he has been too busy getting a tariff bill through the senate, which Senator Hill has been trying to defeat. Mr. Hill attends every game played here—Washington Letter.

Women and Learning.

Statistics collected by the regents of the University of New York shows that in the secondary schools there are 23,536 girls of academic grade and 18,243 boys. Last year more than two-thirds of the 488 honor certificates went to girls. In the colleges there are 3,923 girls and 4,048 in the professional and technical schools. Many other young women are studying law, medicine, painting and music. The United States census of 1890 gave the number of women teachers as 238,397. In their report upon these statistics the regents remark, "The remarkable development of woman's higher education is due to widespread recognition that a college course is needed as the best preparation for wifehood, motherhood and home life as much as for a professional life."

If Guilty, Forgiveness Is Assured.

The mortality among newspapers in the United States during the past 18 months has been something almost unprecedented. In New York state alone 273 newspapers suspended between June, 1898, and June, 1899. For the first time since 1869 the total number catalogued by the newspaper directory is less than for the preceding year. This is said to be due to hard times caused by the Democratic free trade panic, but this is one of the things for which that party will most assuredly be forgiven. If he who makes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before is a benefactor of his kind, what shall be said of him who makes but one newspaper to desolate the community where there were three before?—San Francisco Argonaut.

The Chinese Fair.

The war in the east may interfere with the holding of the so-called Chinese world's fair which has been announced to take place this year. It is not a world's fair in the ordinary sense of the word, since all exhibits are to be furnished by China itself, but if half the reports sent out are true it has been planned to exceed all other fairs by whatever name called. The expense is estimated at \$200,000,000, and it is announced in honor of the sixty-first anniversary of the birth of the empress dowager. Apart from the main exhibits at Peking, there are to be celebrations in every town of the empire. It seems to be rather a national festival than a display of arts, manufactures and agriculture, though this part of the "fair" is planned on an enormous scale.—Philadelphia Ledger.

With the echo of his defense of President Cleveland still ringing in the ears of his colleagues, Senator Hill walked into the cloakroom and dropped into an easy chair to chat with Senator Smith. Presently a page appeared, carrying a note enclosed in a large square envelope addressed to Senator Hill.

"Ah!" said Mr. Smith, with a tone of inquiry, "an invitation to dine with the president tonight?"

Senator Hill looked up from the note with a twinkle in his eye. "Not at this stage of the game," said he.—Washington Post.

THE OLD LADY'S VISIT.

Waiting For a City Friend With Three Jars of Buttermilk.

The last passenger to leave the 4:30 train on the Michigan Central railroad after it drew to a standstill one summer afternoon was a little old woman in black. A wisp of gray hair straggled from under an old fashioned poke bonnet, and a pair of kindly blue eyes looked out from behind her steelrimmed spectacles. In one hand she carried a huge, shiny valise, the key of which was tied to the handle with a strip of calico cloth. When she was part way up the platform, she stopped, with a troubled look, and watched the baggage men toil by with their loaded trucks. Presently she dropped the valise and opened a big black fan which was fastened to her waist by a velvet ribbon. After she had waited some time one of the depot ushers came along and asked if he could be of any service to her.

"Why, thank you, I think not," she answered. "I am waiting for Dick Robinson."

The depot usher hurried on and paid no more attention to the little old woman. When he came back a half hour later, she was still standing where he had left her, gently fanning herself with the black fan. "Has your friend come yet?" asked the usher.

"No," she answered. "His watch must have been slow."

"Did he expect you by this train?"

"Well, you see, it's this way: Last summer Dick and his wife came over to Briggsburg to visit the Coopers. While they were there they came over often to my place to get a drink of buttermilk. Well, we got friendly, and Sarah told me a lot of things about Chicago, and that she couldn't by no manner of means get buttermilk in the city. Before Dick went back he came around and says: 'Mrs. Beggs, just take a run up to Chicago next summer and visit us. Let me know when you're coming, and I'll meet you at the depot.' And so I'm here, and I've got three jars of fresh buttermilk for them in that bag."

The depot usher helped the little old woman to a seat in the waiting room, and then he searched the directory for Richard Robinson. His charge couldn't help him much, because she didn't know Dick's occupation.

"All I know," she explained, "is that he's a genuine gentleman, and if he had got my letter he'd 'a' been here."

The usher made a list of two or three addresses and put the woman in charge of a trusty cabman, with instructions to find Dick. Two hours later the driver came back with the report that his fare was delivering her buttermilk.—Chicago Record.

THE CROCOD.

In sheltered corners and shady places The wailing snore of the winter lies. But there is a token of coming spring. In the tender pink of the sunset sky. Above the dark of the windy forest. The young March moon is silvery cold. Come, love, and lean on the gate beside me. And I will tell you a legend old.

A jealous wizard with whitened tresses Beheld a maiden with yellow hair, And seduced her form in his frosty fingers. And bore her far to his icy lair. He bound her fast in a sleep enchanted, And laid her deep in a grave of gloom. Till over the purple sea came sailing A slender prince, with a pale green plume.

From the withered grass and earth above her He brushed the wreaths of the snow aloft. And the dead wizard, whose wailing was o'er, And rose from the tomb to be his bride. Where hoarding sprays of the ivy cling. For the captive maid was the golden crown. Her gallant lover, the prince, is Spring!—Missa Irving in Worthington's Magazine.

Venetian Mirrors.

The beauty and almost absolute perfection characterizing the mirrors produced in the manufactories of Venice are mainly due, it is said, to the peculiar solution applied to the surface. Preliminary to this application the glass is thoroughly cleaned with wet washing and prepared for the silver with a sensitive solution of tin, which is well rinsed off immediately before its removal to the silvering table, and the latter being raised to the proper temperature the glass is laid and the silvering solution at once poured over it before the heat of the table has time to dry any part of the surface of the glass. The solution used is prepared as follows: In one-half liter of distilled water 100 grains of nitrate of silver are dissolved. To this being added 62 grains of liquid ammonia of 0.88 specific gravity. The mixture is filtered and made up to eight liters with distilled water. 7 to 10 grams of tartaric acid dissolved in 30 grams of water are mixed with the solution. About 2 to 10 liters are poured over the glass meter to be silvered, the metal immediately commencing to deposit on the glass, which is maintained at about 104 degrees F., and in a little more than a half hour a continuous coating of silver is formed. After careful wiping with chemicals the surface is treated a second time with a solution like the first, but containing a double quantity of tartaric acid.—New York Sun.

The Oldest Grapevine.

The oldest grapevine in the country was indeed interesting. One growing near this, which was known to be more than 80 years old, died finally of good old age and was purchased and transported in its entirety to the Chicago fair. This one is 47 to 50 years of age and is hale and hearty yet. At the base it is 12 inches in circumference. It grows straight up for about 8 feet, then divides into six branches, and at this point is 5 feet in circumference. At a height of perhaps 7 feet it spreads itself in all directions over an immense area covering a space by actual measurement of 75 by 66 feet. It bears in one season 5,000 pounds of the purple mission grape, of which no use is made except as it is eaten and given away by its owner to any one who will take it.—Santa Barbara Cor. Troy Times.

Inner service Worth \$100,000.

The silver dinner service which Mrs. J. W. Mackay has with her in Europe is worth \$199,000. Her millionaire husband furnished \$75,000 in weight of pure silver and then paid another \$115,000 for the work done upon it. The above is, I believe, reckoned as being the most costly silver set now in use in the world.—St. Louis Republic.

A government export trade in wives has just been begun for the benefit of western Australia.

A consignment of 60 young women, sound, good looking, under 20 and carefully selected, was sent free recently in order to provide wives for the colonists.

HAD TO GIVE BONDS.

A Delaware Marriage Formality That Struck Terror to One Bridegroom.

To get married seems an easy thing to the young man whose fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love, but when it comes to the actual ceremony where are a thousand and one terrors which surround and threaten to overcome him. Marriage in some states is easy. In others it is difficult as obtaining a divorce.

A well known Philadelphian was about to be married to a beautiful young woman who lived in the state of Delaware. He had no idea that the marriage laws of that state were of an appalling nature. He had secured his license and thought that was all that was necessary.

"Have you filed your bond yet?" said some one to him the day before the wedding.

"What?" gasped he. "Your bond," repeated the questioner. "You know every man who is married in this state has to file a bond for the protection of the state."

The bridegroom was rather dubious, but was finally persuaded that this was a fact.

"I'll see a lawyer about it in the morning," said he. So he went to a friend, who was a legal light, and said: "See here. They tell me I have to give a bond to the state when I get married."

"Certainly. Haven't you done so?"

"No! I never heard of such a thing before. What kind of bond is it?"

"Oh, any real estate will do."

"But I haven't any real estate."

The lawyer looked at him a moment. Then he solemnly said:

"Haven't you any friends who own property?"

"None that I care to ask my bride's relatives, you know."

"You can't postpone the wedding, can you?"

"What?" fairly shrieked the unfortunate.

"Of course, of course not," said the legal light soothingly. But the poor bridegroom looked stricken.

"I'll tell you what I'll do, old man. I'll lend to the matter for you. Don't give yourself any more concern about it."

The young man about to be married grasped his hand. He could not speak for a moment, and then he poured forth his thanks. He picked up his hat in a relieved sort of way and walked to the door. Then he turned.

Mixed duties.

It seems to me that in most cases the perfect jury would be one made up of men and women in equal numbers. The fundamental idea of the jury is that it affords a good average opinion on the case before it, and that this average is more likely to approximate justice than the decision of any number of legal experts. In view of the admitted differences between the mental operations of men and women, would not the introduction of the latter into the jury box give a juster average of human sentiment than is secured under the present system? There is another consideration, less important in theory, but probably of great practical value. Hunger and thirst and impatience of confinement often drive the masculine jury to decisions which must cause the redoubt of the bandaged eyes to shed copious tears behind the voluminous folds which secure her impartiality. By her established indifference to creature comforts woman would raise the moral tone of juries and compel decisions on abstract principles. When a protracted session was in prospect, she would first make up her mind and then take out her embroidery and wait for the other jurors to come around to her position.—Kate Field's Washington.

A Holy Ghost Plant.

There has been an exhibition in front of a Chestnut street florist's window for some days past a very rare specimen of the dove flower, or, as it is more familiarly known, the "Holy Ghost plant." The florist claims that this specimen has been some 15 years coming to perfection, and he values it at \$35. It is a small plant, about 10 inches high, and bears some eight or ten of the little white flowers which, from their remarkable resemblance to a dove with wings outstretched give to the plant its name. The flower is the "Espirito Santo" of the Spaniards and was discovered in Panama in 1820.—Philadelphia Record.

SCENES IN NAPLES.

Some of the incidents of the Street Life of the Neapolitans.

The commonest people of Naples seldom buy anything from the stores or shops, but patronize peddlers and street hawkers almost exclusively. At the portable kitchen booths a bill of fare is offered to the hungry wayfarer that is laughingly reasonable in price and varied in kind. Besides the ever present minestrone, the principal articles of food are the fruttu di mare, "sea fruits," in cluding mussels, polpi and sea spiders, all regarded as most tempting delicacies by the ever hungry Neapolitan.

Then there are roasted fishes of all kinds, maize dumplings, so called spighe, and finally the national meat food, called bracciale, which is really a dumpling or cake made of lamb meat and lard. Snail soup is another delicacy as well as cheese with bacon (la pizza). Like all southerners, the Neapolitans show a marked fondness for sweets of all kinds, and they would be quite content without their portion of bruffoli, a rather tough cake made principally of honey. Then nothing appeals to the Neapolitan appetite so insidiously as the famous Easter cake of Cassatello, which is sprinkled most temptingly with fluid pork fat, and in which whole eggs are baked, shell and all, a questionable dainty to unmedicated palates.

The Neapolitan women are seldom beautiful and generally not even pretty. They are usually poorly built, with swarthy complexions and irregular features. Now and then one finds a tawny pair of eyes of great beauty, but rarely. The Neapolitan women are not to be compared with the women of the country as seen in Rome and in the Campagna, whose trim figures, graceful movements and frequently charmingly fascinating faces so often greet the eye of the traveler. Their fullness of form, proud bearing and fine profiles are all conspicuously absent in the wives of the Neapolitan. And how could it well be otherwise? Are they not "beasts of burden" for "beasts of burden"? Are the factitious, by reason of their occupation, much more than this?—Home and Court.

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U. P.—Going South..... 9:20 a. m.
R. G. W.—Going East..... 9:28 a. m.
R. G. W.—Going West..... 11:55 a. m.
U. P.—Going North..... 4:32 p. m.
Salt Lake and Salina East 3:55 p. m.
Salt Lake and Salina West 4:15 p. m.

MAIL TRAINS ARRIVE.

U. P.—From Salt Lake..... 9:20 a. m.
R. G. W.—From the West..... 9:28 a. m.
R. G. W.—From the East..... 11:55 a. m.
Salt Lake and Salina West 3:55 p. m.
Salt Lake and Salina East 4:15 p. m.
U. P. Mail from South..... 4:32 p. m.

The general delivery, stamp and registry windows open at 8 a. m., and close at 5:30 p. m.

The money order window opens at 9 a. m., and closes at 4 p. m.

On Sundays and legal holidays the general delivery and stamp windows are open from 11:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.

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Among the other notable features of the year will be the series of stories by George du Maurier and Charles Dudley Warner, the personal reminiscences of W. D. Howells, and eight short stories of Western frontier life by Owen Wister. Short stories will also be contributed by Bret Harte, Mark Twain, and others. The series of "The World's Best Stories" will be continued by distinguished specialists.

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